

Concerto for Solo Cello: One Stringed Instrument Takes Center Stage at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro

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Article:

The largest collection of cello music in the world is located at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Jackson Library, thanks to the vision and efforts of Elizabeth Cowling (1910-1997), 30-year UNCG cello professor who in 1963 asked the Friends of the Library to purchase the collection of her mentor--Italian cellist, scholar, pedagogue, and arranger Luigi Silva. The collection grew when similar donations came in from Cowling herself (1977), Rudolf Matz (1986), Maurice Eisenberg (1989), and János Scholz (1994), who all wanted their collections to be housed with that of their colleague. Some of the collections--those of Silva, Matz, Scholz, and Cowling--have been cataloged and are available on WorldCat through the efforts of Cataloger Joan Staples and recently retired library Director Doris Hulbert.

In November 2002, works collected by 32-year Indiana University Cello Professor Fritz Magg were added--a gift from his widow, Kari Magg. And in October 2003, the collection of Bernard Greenhouse--founding member of the Beaux Arts Trio and cellist with the Bach Aria Group--was added.

School of Music Cello Professor Brooks Whitehouse and school Dean John Deal spearheaded the Silva Centennial Celebration--the first in a series of celebrations of cello music--hosted at the university in March to highlight the collection. Among the attendees were many of Silva's students and family members, including grandson Benjamin, who performed on guitar.

The next event will take place March 4-6, 2005, in celebration of Greenhouse's 90th birthday, and will feature Timothy Eddy of the Orion String Quartet; Steven Doane of the Eastman School of Music; Paul Katz, formerly of the Cleveland Quartet; Qiang Tu of the New York Philharmonic, and others.

Visit www.uncg.edu/mus/greenhouse/ for details. For more information, visit <http://library.uncg.edu/info/depts/scua/collections/cello/>.